(c) the preventive and curative measures taken to avert such situations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Government is not aware of any such agitation in Kerala against syllabi prepared by National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT). State of Kerala has its own syllabi and textbooks for school education, and does not follow NCERT syllabi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Encouragement of fundamental sciences

2198. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of heavy investment in higher education in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to make it basically a knowledge investment plan, Government has taken any steps to encourage fundamental sciences like mathematics and physics at degree and post graduate level in every college, as large number of college students in the country are not opting for these fundamental sciences, which would create a crisis in future in the teaching faculty at high school, graduate and post graduate level and in the fundamental science research field as scientific advancement of the world has not taken place without the advancement of these basic fundamental sciences;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission, the percentage of students' enrolment in Science subjects in universities and colleges during the year 2006-07 was 20.45% which is only lower than that in Art discipline which was 45.13% . In order to promote basic scientific research in universities, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted by the Central Government. The Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to implement its recommendations. The University Grants Commission has been advised that while releasing grant-in-aid to the institutes of higher learning, 20% of the grant may be earmarked exclusively for research related activities.

Opening of IIMs and NITs in Uttarakhand and Western Uttar Pradesh

2199. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to open new IIMs and National Institutes of Technology in Uttarakhand and Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Uttarakhand Government has proposed any locations for these institutes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the locations for setting up these institutes have been finalized;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, by when a decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) For the State of Uttarakhand, the Government has decided to set-up one Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and one National Institute of Technology (NIT) is under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) Response from the State Government is awaited.

Helping PTTIs in West Bengal

2200. SHRI BARUN MUKHERJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, for greater interest of thousands of poor and middle class students of Primary Teachers Training Institutes (PTTIs) in West Bengal, the Central Government would extend the Ministry's helping hand to them, instead of only highlighting the State's faults in the matter;

(b) if so, what effective steps Government proposes to take to ameliorate the hardships of about 75,000 students of the PTTIs in West Bengal; and

(c) what the State Government is expected to do at the moment in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) After the judgement of the Calcutta High Court dated 01.10.2008 in the case of Tulsi Baksi and Another *Vs*. State of West Bengal and others in respect of W.P. No. 4107(W) of 2006 the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal to the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), which is the Competent Authority under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 to take appropriate decision in this regard. All efforts are being made by the NCTE in accordance with the extant Rules and Regulations under the NCTE Act and the above judgement.

Regional imbalance in establishment of private institutions

2201. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is regional imbalance in the establishment of private institutions like Engineering Colleges, deemed universities and technical institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how Government proposes to tackle this imbalance;

(c) how many private institutions exist in the country, State-wise, and how many of them have been given permission during the last three years;